

# Course Syllabus

## TPP 3124 Improv for Social/Political Issues

### Spring 2016

Instructor: Ernest Briggs

Office Hours: By appointment, located 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of McCarty Hall C

Email: ebriggs@ufl.edu

Class: Tuesday & Thursday 4:05pm-6:00pm

### Course Objectives:

- To develop, understand, and perform the fundamentals of improvisation.
- To understand the importance of ensemble.

### Attendance:

- This class is about performance – attendance is essential. You are expected to arrive ON TIME and to attend ALL classes.
- Your attendance grade is determined in the following way:
  - 0-2 absences (A grade is still possible)
  - Any more than 2 unexcused absences your grade will drop an entire letter.
  - Obviously, absences will impact your participation grade as well. If you have a logistical problem that is preventing you from arriving on time, you must let me know ASAP.
  - Two tardies will result in an absence.
  - If you have a note from a doctor, or proof of a school sponsored event (final examination, GRE) then that absence will be excused, otherwise there are NO other excuses for an absence.

### Performance Attendance:

For this class, you are REQUIRED to see **3 productions** during the course of the semester.

You will write a critique on the acting performance within each production no longer than 3 pages. The paper must be in MLA format and must include a thesis statement, supporting paragraphs followed by a conclusion. All papers are due on the class following the final performance of the production, if you are absent you must email me the paper on the day or it will be late. Failure to turn in the three papers will result in the loss of a half letter grade (ex. A to A-).

### Current Season:

**Spill**

Constans Theatre

January 29 – February 7

**Honky**

Black Box Theater, McGuire Pavilion

March 18<sup>th</sup> – March 26th

**The House of Aterus**

Constans Theatre

April 1st – April 10th

**Dress Code:**

Warm-ups and improv scene work can be physically demanding. Wear comfortable clothes that allow easy movement. No open-toed shoes or flip-flops are allowed. Ladies be sure to avoid dresses or skirts that will hinder your abilities to perform in class.

**Class Conduct:**

Classes of this size and nature demand a mutual respect to function positively. There is no eating, drinking (except water), gum chewing, cell phone use (including texting), or disruptive talking in class. (Phones should be put away at all times unless there is an emergency that you have informed me about).

**Honor Code:**

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." If you plagiarize material, i.e., use someone else's words or ideas without attribution, you will automatically receive a failing grade in this class. Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty.

**Learning Disabilities:**

If you have a disability that is documented with the Disability Resource Center and wish to discuss accommodations, please see me during office hours. If you have a learning disability that has not been documented, contact the DRC at 352-392-8565, email [accessuf@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu), or go to their office at 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall).

**Course Evaluation:**

The University of Florida would like students to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

**Grading Scale:**

A	93-100	Superior Work (exceeded expectations)
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	Good Effort
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	Average Effort
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	
D	63-66	Minimum Effort
D-	60-63	
E	59-	